

7 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from John Lehman, White House Staff,  
Regarding a Letter from Senator Stennis to the President  
on the Subject of CIA Funding of Operations in Laos

1. Late today, I received a call from John Lehman informing me that the President had received a letter from Chairman John Stennis, Senate Armed Services Committee. The thrust of the letter was that since U.S. operations in Laos had become a matter of public knowledge, and since CIA involvement in the operations was attracting attention to the CIA budget, he felt he could not support the funding of these operations by the Agency in FY 1973.

2. Mr. Lehman commented that he could not believe that this was a decision which Senator Stennis had reached "out of the blue." I commented that in point of fact over the years, dating back to Senator Russell's chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee, increasing concern had been expressed over CIA funding of programs in Southeast Asia. I added that I was aware that Ed Braswell and Chairman Stennis had become increasingly concerned over the debate which they felt was

3. Mr. Lehman asked that I advise the Director of his call, which I said I would do. He also said that this matter would probably be the subject of an LIG meeting in the near future. I told him Mr. Maury would be returning from leave tomorrow, that I would bring him up-to-date, and that he would undoubtedly attend such a meeting.

Acting Legislative Counsel

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8. (Confidential - GLC) Roy Bullock, Staff Administrator, House Foreign Affairs Committee, called about the request which Representative Lee Hamilton, Chairman of the Near East Subcommittee, had made for the appearance of an Agency witness before his Subcommittee on the situation in the Middle East. Bullock said he planned to raise this question with Chairman Morgan since Hamilton had written to him on the subject. He asked what the "protocol" was on this. I told him that in the past we had accepted a verbal indication that Chairman Morgan endorsed the request of a subcommittee chairman for a briefing, but we agreed that under the rules under which the House is now operating, it might be desirable for the Chairman to submit these requests in writing. I told Bullock that I would give this some thought and be back in touch with him tomorrow.

25X1A 9. (Unclassified - GLC) Walter Ochinko, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, called to say he had been referred to us by [ ] Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, in connection with a request the Library has received for a study on the use of heroin in Southeast Asia. [ ] suggested that Ochinko ask the Agency for a copy of a research paper which we recently prepared on the subject of heroin in Southeast Asia. This matter has been referred to [ ] O/DDI, and [ ] in [ ] office, for response.

10. (Confidential - GLC) John Lehman, White House staff, called to advise us of a letter which the President has received from Chairman John Stennis, Senate Armed Services Committee, on the CIA funding of operations in Laos. The Director has been advised of this conversation. See Memo for Record.

25X1A 11. (Internal Use Only - LLM) Mr. Peter Stark, in the office of Representative John Schmitz (R., Calif.), called and asked if we could supply him with a map of SE Asia depicting the areas of insurgent activities for their use in the office. I told him I would look into it and be back in touch. [ ] OBG, is working on this.

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5. (Secret - GLC) Handcarried to Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Senate Armed Services Committee, the package prepared at his request on Laos. After a quick review of the material, Braswell felt it was deficient in two respects: one, it did not cover the justification for U.S. programs in Laos and, two, it did not contain sufficient detail on the three-way agreement as regards the [REDACTED]

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I asked Braswell for his opinion as to when he thought the Senate would get into a discussion of Southeast Asian programs. He said this was very uncertain but it could come up as early as next week.

I briefed Braswell on a number of current intelligence items including: Soviet modification of the G-Class submarine; the Luna-18 launch; ChiCom defense installations; a new type Soviet ABM support vehicle; and developments on a new Soviet guided missile cruiser. Braswell asked if we could give him a paper commenting on the accuracy of the Tad Szulc column in the New York Times on the "Backfire" bomber.

6. (Secret - GLC) Handcarried to William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, a Reserve withdrawal letter dated 17 August 1971.

Briefed Woodruff on a number of current intelligence items including: Soviet modification of the G-Class submarine; the Luna-18 launch; ChiCom defense installations; a new type Soviet ABM support vehicle; and developments on a new Soviet guided missile cruiser.

7. (Secret - GLC) Handcarried to Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Committee, a Reserve withdrawal letter dated 17 August 1971.

Briefed Preston on a number of current intelligence items including: Soviet modification of the G-Class submarine; the Luna-18 launch; ChiCom defense installations; a new type Soviet ABM support vehicle; and developments on a new Soviet guided missile cruiser.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Reported LIG Interest in Obtaining a Copy of DCI  
Paper for Senator Stennis on Thais in Laos

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1. On 7 September 1951, Mark Pratt of the State Department told [ ] of the Far East Division that the Legislative Interdepartmental Group (LIG) is very interested in receiving a copy of the DCI's paper for Senator Stennis on Thais in Laos. Mr. Pratt has been trying to pry a copy of this paper out of us for several days and implied that he is trying to use LIG leverage to accomplish his goal of meshing CIA and DOD legislative contacts with those of State. Pratt is concerned that a failure to coordinate individual legislative contacts at this critical stage of Congressional action on the Defense Procurement Act will undermine the Administration's position. He indicated that State has informed the LIG that CIA is delinquent in providing a copy of the DCI paper for Senator Stennis. Pratt also said that this is the only "uncoordinated" legislative contact, i.e., State and DOD have coordinated their legislative contacts with us and the LIG. Pratt emphasized that State had modified its response to Symington at CIA's request and is now concerned that the DCI paper for Stennis may have gone beyond that response thus putting State and the Administration in a potentially embarrassing position with Congress.

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2. The above information was passed orally by [ ] to [ ] of the Office of Legislative Counsel at 1015 on 7 September.

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